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THE DAY CAMP TRADITION CONTINUES

by Katie Winslow, Y Summer Day Camp Supervisor

Our Grand Traverse Bay YMCA is celebrating **26 years of day camp** at its facility allowing children from 3 ½ years to grade 9 to experience the great outdoors, friendship and character building. “We have been very fortunate to have the location that we have and share the 40 acres of the Boardman Nature Area with our main facility just south of Airport Road in Traverse City,” said Katie Winslow, supervisor of Y Day Camp. “Our experienced summer’s staff gives our children a broad experience of the outdoors and nature, fun and games, and building life time friendships with staff and their peers.” There is still plenty of room to register! Information is available by calling 933-9622 or www.gtbayymca.org.

The Y Day Camp provides eclectic opportunities in Young Explorers, K-Camp, Traditional Camp, Leaders Club, Sports Camp, and Art Camp. “We offer fun filled days of hiking, canoeing, sports, arts and crafts, and field trips with the common thread of teaching the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility, our YMCA 4-Core Values,” said Winslow. The camp is 12 weeks beginning June 13 and provides the flexibility to parents to sign up their camper of each of the weeks throughout the summer. The Camp runs Monday to Friday from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm.

Young Explorers who are children 3 ½ to 4 ½ years old have their camp at the new YMCA Child Care Center on Woodmere Ave in Traverse City. This early childhood specialty camp focuses on development and character building in a safe, secure, and air conditioned setting.

The **K-Camp**, a camp solely for kids entering kindergarten, provides campers with a variety of age-appropriate activities in our 40 acres woods and at the Y Main Facility on Racquet Club Drive.

At the **Traditional Y Day Camp**, campers are split into age groups and participate in activities designed around the theme of the week. This camp is for kids entering grades 1-6 and grouped by age.

The **Y Sports Camp** gives campers an introduction to new sports as well as an opportunity to polish their skills. Each week features a new sport. Kids entering grades 4-6 can participate in this camp.

In its third year, **Y Arts Camp**, for kids entering grades 4-6, introduces art through four themes: “Pure Nature”, “African Safari”, “Art History”, and “Art Expression.” This is a special four week camp that begins on July 11.

The **Y Leaders Club**, designed for kids entering grades 7-9, teaches campers how to apply the YMCA’s values to leadership models.

The camps follow a 5 day a week cycle with a different theme each week. The camp experience is flexible to meet the care needs of parents' hectic schedules. Parents (or grandparents) need only to register by the Monday of the previous week for their children to enjoy a week of camp. Y Day Camp is licensed by the State of Michigan. Note the YMCA website at www.gtbayymca.org for the required forms and parents information book.